LEIGH RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

LEIGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1919.

Population at the Census in 1911	-	10,077
Population (estimated) in 1919	-	11,400

Area, 11,573 statute acres (land and inland water).

The district consists of four townships, viz: Astley, Culcheth, Kenyon, and Lowton, which are divided into two areas, the township of Astley being separated from the rest of the district by a portion of the Borough of Leigh.

Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth form one continuous area on the southern boundary of the Leigh Borough. The district is flat, and most of the land is agricultural. The subsoil is chiefly clay, with some sand and gravel in places.

The greater portion of the population is composed of the industrial class, and these inhabitants are mainly employed in Agriculture, Cotton Mills, Coal Mines, and Confectionery Works.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Notifications of Births were received in 151 cases.

BIRTHS.

During 1919 the births registered in the district numbered 198—Males, 87; Females, 111—giving an annual birth rate of 19·05 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Included in the above are 11 illegitimate births, 4 Males and 7 Females.

DEATHS.

The total deaths registered in the district during the same period numbered 153—89 were males and 64 females. The nett death rate is 15·3 per 1,000. Deaths were attributed to the following causes :—

	Males.	Females.
Influenza	11	8
Bronchitis	10	4
Pneumonia	15	4
Heart Disease	8	13
Cancer	6	6
Meningitis	1	0
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	2	4
Violence	3	1
Suicide	1	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	5	2
Do. (Non-Pulmonary)	0	1

Inquests were held in 5 cases :—Lowton, 2; Astley, 3.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The deaths registered from the seven principal zymotic diseases numbered 4, giving an annual zymotic rate of 0·4 per 1,000. They were as follows:—Smallpox, 0; Measles, 0; Scarlet Fever, 0; Whooping Cough, 0; Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup, 2; Enteric Fever, 0; Diarrhœa, 2. Total, 4.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 20, and this gives an infant mortality of 101.

The infant mortality is the proportion of deaths under one year to 1,000 registered births, and not to the population.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Epidemic Death Rate.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year o 1,000 Births.
1919	19·0	15·3	0·40	0·70	101
1918	20·8	17·4	1·78	0·52	99
1917	19·4	13·4	0·92	0·51	132
1916	21·9	11·5	0·59	0·29	78
1915	26·7	15·3	3·18	0·86	119
Mean of 10 years (1909-1918) ...	25·8	14·5	1·98	0·75	123
Increase or Decrease in 1919 on:					
Previous year ...	−1·8	−2·1	−1·38	+0·18	+ 2
Ten years' average	−6·8	+0·8	−1·58	−0·05	−22

In the whole of England and Wales for 1919 the Birth Rate was 18·5; Death Rate, 13·8; Infant Mortality, 86.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

LEIGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1913	10240	273	...	26·75	158	15·43	1	19	42	153	175	17·09
1914	10330	275	278	26·91	120	11·61	3	12	32	115	129	12·48
1915	10375	275	276	26·60	146	14·07	5	18	33	119	159	15·32
1916	10115 D'ths 11005 B'ths	240	242	21·9	101	9·98	3	19	19	78	117	11·56
1917	9757 D'ths 10876 B'ths	—	211	19·4	117	11·5	10	24	28	132	131	13·4
1918	9498 D'ths 10642 B'ths	—	222	20 8	151	15·9	—	—	23	99	166	17·4
1919	9973 D'ths 10389 B'ths	—	198	90·0	141	14·1	5	17	20	101	153	15·3

Area of District in acres (land and inland water 11573

WATER SUPPLY.

The more populated portions of the district are provided with a constant supply of water from waterworks. There are, however, a number of farms where surface wells are the only available supply.

Astley is supplied by Liverpool water from the Borough of Leigh, and by Manchester Corporation water from Tyldesley.

Culcheth and Kenyon are supplied by the County Borough of Warrington.

Lowton supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation from Abram, and also from Newton-in-Makerfield.

WELLS.

Six samples of water from wells in the district have been submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, viz. :—

Two first samples from Astley, one of which showed evidence of pollution. The well is temporarily closed.

Four second and third samples, one of which was found improved.

Of the eight samples submitted in 1918, three of which were found to be polluted—

One has been improved.

One Well has been closed for domestic use, and one has been replaced by connections to the water mains.

One is being dealt with.

It is advisable, in my opinion, to continue the extension of the water mains wherever possible and so prevent the use of these surface wells, which are liable to become polluted at any time.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Occasional pollution of the river Glaze in Glazebury has taken place, owing to the inadequacy of the existing sewage treatment, but a scheme is in preparation, which, it is hoped, will prevent this pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Astley.—The greater portion of the sewage is discharged into the sewage system of Tyldesley. A small portion is dealt with at a small sewage works of the Council, but a scheme has now been prepared for pumping this sewage into the Tyldesley sewers. When this is completed, the township will be well sewered.

Culcheth.—A few houses in this township are connected to a small sewage bed in Glazebury. The sewage of the remainder is conveyed into sewage ditches and cesspools, and these are cleaned out regularly.

Kenyon consists chiefly of scattered farms. The sewage is discharged into cesspools and sewage ditches.

Lowton.—A large portion of this township is properly piped, and the sewage is conveyed to three small sewage works, but in the other portion of the township the sewage is discharged into open ditches. It has been recognized that the method in use is unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared to lay a new sewer from Lowton to a new sewage works situated in Culcheth. When this is completed, the drainage and sewerage should be much improved.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Approximate number of		Pail Closets ...	... 75
,,	,,	Ducket Closets	... 2
,,	,,	Water Closets...	... 254
,,	,,	Privies and Ashpits	... 1686

The number of water closets is increased by 1.

SCAVENGING.

The old unsatisfactory system of making the tenants responsible for the removal of the contents of the privies and ashpits has been abolished. The Council now directly employs labour for this purpose. The refuse is collected at regular intervals in the Council's own motor lorries, and tipped on agricultural land. This should prove a satisfactory method of dealing with the matter in a scattered rural district.

LEIGH RURAL

REPORT OF THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE INSPECTOR OF

Description of Work Performed.	No.
No. of Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1123
,, Inspections made under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	1316
,, Statutory Notices served do. do. do. ...	21
,, Informal Notices do do. do. do. ...	90
,, Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses under Inspection	35
,, Inspections of Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses, and other places where food is prepared	84
,, Statutory Notices served under Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses	0
,, Informal Notices do. do. do. ...	4
,, Lodging-houses under Inspection	17
,, Inspections of Lodging-houses	23
,, Statutory Notices served on Lodging-house Keepers	0
,, Informal Notices do. do.	4
,, Dairies and Cowsheds under Inspection	121
,, Inspections made under the Dairies and Cowsheds' Acts... ...	248
,, Statutory Notices served on Occupiers of Dairies and Cowsheds	8
,, Informal do. do. do. do.	19
,, Canal Boats Inspected...	16
,, Statutory Notices served under Canal Boats' Acts...	0
,, Informal Notices do. do.	0
,, Travelling Vans Inspected	3
,, Statutory Notices served on Occupiers of Travelling Vans ...	0
,, Informal Notices do. do do.	0
,, Infectious Diseases Reported...	151
,, Infectious Diseases Removed to Sanatoriums	16
,, Houses Disinfected	110
,, New Houses Certified	0
Total Number of Inspections made during the year 1915	1690
,, Statutory Notices served do.	29
,, Informal Notices	117

Risley, Culcheth,
December 31st, 1919.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NUISANCES DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

Description of Nuisances Dealt With.	No.	Abated	Remaining
Drains Made, Cleansed, etc.	37	37	0
Sink-Pipes Connected or Defective	12	10	2
Old Privies and Ashpits Removed	6	6	0
New Privies and Ashpits Built	6	6	0
Privies or Ashpits Out of Repair, etc.	29	23	6
Houses Damp, Out of Repair, etc.	32	23	9
Houses or Premises in a Dirty State	13	13	0
Houses Overcrowded	4	4	0
Houses Demolished without an Order	3	3	0
Houses Closed without an Order	0	0	0
Yard Pavements Defective or Out of Repair	22	18	4
Wells Defective or Out of Repair	6	6	0
Animals or Poultry kept so as to be a nuisance	3	3	0
Buildings Dangerous	2	2	0
Other Nuisances and Accumulations	49	40	9
Nuisances remaining from 1918	15	15	0
Total Number of Nuisances Notified during 1919	230	200	30

Approximate No. of Pail Closets		75
do.	Ducket Closets	2
do.	Water Closets	254
do.	Privies with Ashpits	1686

J. MONKS,

Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES & OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

BAKEHOUSES—5.

Twelve inspections have been made, and one defect found, viz :—Want of cleanliness. This was remedied. They are structurally satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS—16.

Sixteen inspections have been made, and no defects were found.

LODGING HOUSES—17.

There are 17 houses let in lodgings on the register. 23 inspections were made, and 4 defects found :—1 defective drainage and 3 limewashing. These were remedied.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—2.

There are two slaughter houses in the district. Both are licensed and structurally satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—1.

One Glue Works. This has been kept under observations. No complaints have been made during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—28.

Thirty-six inspections have been made and two defects found, both relating to cleanliness.

SCHOOLS—12.

These have been visited, and attention called to two defects, viz . 1 drainage, 1 cleanliness. The privies connected with the Schools are, on the whole, satisfactory. The refuse is now removed regularly by the Council's own workmen. This is a great improvement on the previous system.

Glazebury C.E. School was close in June owing to the prevalence of Measles.

All the Astley Schools and Glazebury School were closed in February because of the prevalence of Influenza.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk is good.

The following samples of food have been taken for analysis :—

Lowton	...	...	Milk, 11
Astley	...	...	,, 13
Culcheth	...	...	,, 9

These have been reported on by the County Analyst, and no prosecutions resulted.

There are 120 Cowsheds in the district, and 248 inspections have been made. The following defects have been remedied :— Ventilation, 2 ; air space, 2 ; light, 2 ; drainage, 3 ; lime-washing, 10. The cowsheds in several cases are badly constructed. More air space, more light, better ventilation and drainage are required.

Other Foods.—Thirty-six inspections have been made of Slaughter-houses and other premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale. No diseased or unsound food has been condemned during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases notified during the year, including Measles, numbered 151, compared with 173 in 1918 and 119 in 1917.

48 occurring in persons under 5 years.

103 ,, ,, over 5 years.

TYPHOID FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year.

SMALLPOX.

A person certified to be suffering from this disease, who resided in Bolton, was employed in this district. The works was visited, and all precautions taken. There was no further development.

SCARLET FEVER.

One case was notified, occurring in a person over five years of age. No deaths.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

Fifteen cases were notified. Three occurred in persons under five years of age; twelve occurred in persons over five years of age:—one in Lowton, twelve in Astley, and two in Culcheth. Deaths—two in Culcheth.

ERYSIPELAS.

Six cases were notified. None in persons under five years, six in persons over five years:—three in Lowton, two in Culcheth, and one in Astley. Deaths: none.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified in an infant under one year of age in Culcheth.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year.

MALARIA.

Three cases were notified: Two in Lowton and one in Astley. All cases were contracted abroad whilst on Military Service.

TRENCH FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Twenty-two cases were notified. Four occurred in persons under five years of age, and eighteen occurred in persons over five years of age. Six were in Lowton, twelve in Astley, and four in Culcheth. Deaths, 19.

MEASLES.

Eighty-four cases were notified; 37 occurred in persons under 5 years of age, 47 occurred in persons over 5 years of age :—8 in Astley, 60 in Culcheth, and 16 in Lowton. Deaths, none.

DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

LOWTON. Total, 29.

Malaria, 2 ; Scarlet Fever, 1 ; Diphtheria, 1 ; Pneumonia, 6 ; Measles, 16 ; Erysipelas, 3. Removed to Sanatorium : Diphtheria, 1.

KENYON.

No cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

ASTLEY. Total, 34.

Diphtheria, 12 ; Malaria, 1 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Measles, 8 ; Pneumonia, 12. Removed to Sanatorium: Diphtheria, 10.

CULCHETH. Total, 69.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum, 1 ; Diphtheria, 2 ; Erysipelas, 2 ; Measles, 60 ; Pneumonia, 4. Removed to Sanatorium : Diphtheria, 2.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(Including Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary).

Nineteen cases were notified. Males, 11; Females, 8.

Distribution :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.
Lowton	5	...	4
Kenyon	0	...	0
Astley	3	...	5
Culcheth	1	...	1
	—		—
	9		10
Males	6	...	5
Females	3	...	5

(*a*) Pulmonary.

All cases were visited, and instructions given as to the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Four cases were removed to Tuberculosis Sanatoria at Eldwich, Luneside, and Meathop. The houses were disinfected afterwards.

Five deaths occurred from Phthisis. The death-rate from Phthisis is 0·70

(*b*) Non-Pulmonary.

Excluding Phthisis, Tuberculous Diseases caused 1 death.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester :—

Four from suspected Diphtheria. Result : Negative, 4.

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1919.—LEIGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality. (*e.g.* Parish or Ward of the District.)				Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.											
		Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upw'ds	1 Lowton.	2 Kenyon.	3 Astley.	4 Culcheth.	
Small-pox...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	15	...	3	10	1	1	...	...	1	...	12	2	13
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	3	...	1	2	...
Scarlet fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever (R) ... Continued fever (C) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	9	...	...	2	...	6	1	...	5	...	3	1	3
Other forms of do.	10	...	2	4	4	...	...	...	4	...	5	1	...
Measles	84	...	37	47	...	...	...	...	16	...	8	60	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trench Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	22	1	4	6	3	3	5	...	6	...	12	4	...
Totals	151	2	46	70	10	16	7		38	...	42	71	16

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c. :—Joint Hospital, Leigh Borough, Leigh Rural, Atherton, Tyldesley, and Golborne.
Cases of Tuberculosis sent to Meathop, Eldwich, Luneside, Grange, and Wilkinson Sanatoria.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of Medical Officer (part-time) and Inspector of Nuisancees (whole-time), who is also Inspector of Canal Boats, Dairies and Cowsheds, Factories and Workshops, and also Designated Officer under the Housing Acts.

Sufficient Hospital accommodation is provided for ordinary Infectious Disease and Small-Pox by the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, the Leigh Rural District Council being one of the Constituent Authorities. A Washington-Lyon steam disinfector is available for the disinfection of Bedding and Clothing.

The following adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations are in force in the district :—

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts).

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

Bye-Laws with respect to Common Lodging-Houses, Nuisances, and Slaughter-Houses.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts).

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890

(I.) HOUSING.

	Astley.	Culcheth.	Lowton.	Kenyon.	Total
Number of Houses in the District.....	723	598	789	63	2173
Populat'n (Estimated)	3790	3140	4140	330	11400

Practically all are working-class houses.

No new houses have been built, nor any in course of erection during the year.

No important changes in the population have taken place during the year, but it is probable that when the proposed houses are completed the population will increase, as a large number of people are employed in this district who reside in adjoining districts. Cotton mills are also being extended, and boreing operations for Coal are taking place.

(II.) OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding is prevalent in the district.

(1) Records shew

	Astley.	Culcheth.	Lowton.	Kenyon.	Total
Number of Houses containing more than One Family	38	8	21	—	67
Number of Houses Overcrowded on basis of Two per Room.....	115	25	71	—	209
Number of Persons in Overcrowded Houses in excess of Two per Room	253	30	125	—	408

(2) This appears to be due to the small number of houses built in recent years, and to Colliery Company's developments.

(3) The Council propose building 720 houses, which should relieve the situation. Schemes for the erection of houses have been approved by the Housing Commissioners as follows :—Astley, 500 ; Newchurch, 75 ; Glazebury, 25 ; Lowton, 120.

(4) For the present the only action that can be taken is to move families into houses with more suitable accommodation. Four cases of this kind have been dealt with during the year.

(III). FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) The general standard of the houses in the district is good, but a number exist which require attention. Badly constructed bedrooms, dampness, insufficient ventilation owing to windows being fixed, are defects frequently found.

(2 & 3) As many defects as possible are being remedied without issuing Closing Orders. No vacant houses are available, and until the new houses are completed Closing Orders, which later may be considered advisable, are being held in abeyance.

(IV., V. & VI.) UNHEALTHY AREAS AND BYE-LAWS.

No action has been taken.

(VII.) STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made that they were unfit for human habitation—

By Householders	0
By Parish Councils	0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses inspected under section 17.....	98
,, ,, unfit for habitation	8
,, ,, in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders	6
(3) Number of orders for repair issued	27
Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by Local Authority	0
Number of dwelling-houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction	0
(4) Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	2
Number of Closing Orders made	2
Number of dwelling-houses in regard to which Closing Orders were determined on the houses being made fit for human habitation	0
(5) Number of Demolition Orders made.....	0
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	0
(6) Number of houses demolished voluntarily	3
(7) Obstructive Buildings—Number of representations made...	0
Number of Buildings demolished	0
Number of representations still under consideration	0

(8) The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1918 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF LEIGH

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	10	...	...
WORKSHOPS ... . (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	2	...
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	...	...
Total	31	2	

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H M. Inspector. (4)	Number of Prosecutions. (5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodat'n — insufficient	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodat'n — unsuitable or defective...	..	.	...	..
Sanitary Accommodat'n — not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act ·				
Illegal occupation of underground bakeh'se	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	...	...	...	...
Other offences	...	...	...	...
Total	2	2		

3.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	5
Joiners and Builders	2
Wheelwrights	3
Blacksmiths	6
Various	5
Total number of workshops on Register	21

April, 1920.

(Signed) L. TONG,
Medical Officer of Health.